

1 Claims

- 2 1. A method of promoting tissue repair
3 comprising the step of administering a
4 compound which modulates the function of
5 beta 1 integrin to a tissue in need of
6 repair.
7
8 2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the
9 compound modulates the metalloproteinase
10 (MMP) balance.
11
12 3. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the
13 compound modulates apoptosis.
14
15 4. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the
16 modulation of the apoptotic activity has a
17 resultant modulation in the
18 metalloproteinase (MMP) balance.
19
20 5. An assay method for identifying compounds
21 suitable for use in tissue repair, said
22 assay comprising the steps of:
23 - providing a candidate compound,
24 - bringing the candidate compound into contact
25 with beta 1 integrin,
26 - determining the presence or absence of
27 modulation of beta 1 integrin activity by
28 the candidate compound,

1 wherein modulation of beta 1 integrin activity
2 is indicative of utility of that compound in
3 tissue repair.

4

5 6. A method of claim 5 wherein modulation of
6 beta 1 integrin activity is assessed by
7 monitoring variance in the MMP level.

8

9 7. A method of claim 5 or 6 wherein modulation
10 of beta 1 integrin activity is assessed by
11 the resulting modulation on apoptosis.

12

13 8. A method of any one of the preceding claims
14 wherein the compound modulates the function
15 of beta 1 integrin, wherein modulation
16 includes a change in the function of, or the
17 shedding of beta 1 integrin.

18

19 9. A method of any one of the preceding claims
20 wherein the compound binds the beta 1
21 integrin molecule in the region of amino
22 acid residues 82 to 87 of the sequence of
23 the mature beta 1 integrin molecule.

24

25 10. A method of any one of the preceding claims
26 wherein the compound binds the amino acid
27 sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, TAEKLLK.

28

- 1 11. A method as claimed in any one of the
2 preceding claims wherein the compound is a
3 synthetic peptide.
4
- 5 12. A method as claimed in any one of the
6 preceding claims wherein the compound is an
7 antibody.
8
- 9 13. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 6
10 to 9 wherein the compound is a humanised or
11 chimaeric antibody.
12
- 13 14. Use of a compound which binds to the beta 1
14 integrin in the preparation of a medicament
15 for the treatment of injured tissue.
16
- 17 15. Use of a compound according to claim 12,
18 wherein the compound is an antibody.
19
- 20 16. Use of a compound according to claim 13,
21 wherein the antibody is the monoclonal
22 antibody produced by the commercial clone
23 JB1a.
24
- 25 17. A compound identified by the method of claim
26 5.
27
- 28 18. A pharmaceutical composition for use in
29 tissue repair wherein the composition

- 1 includes as an active ingredient, a compound
- 2 which modifies the function of beta 1
- 3 integrin.